

Application No. 10/617,215  
Amendment dated August 13, 2009  
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2009

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-61 were previously pending. As noted above, claims 1, 7, 12, 14, 17, 22, 28, 31, 33, 34, 41, 46, 47, 52 and 54 have been amended. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the Specification. Claims 6, 13, 16, 27, 32, 35, 46, 53 and 56 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-15, 17-26, 28-31, 33-34, 36-45, 47-52, 54-55 and 57-61 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application based on the following remarks.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 6, 7, 15-17, 25, 27, 28, 34-36, 44-47 and 55-57 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

### *Claim Rejections*

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-14, 18-24, 26, 29-33, 37-43, 45, 48-54 and 58-61 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faccin et al. US 6,879,690 B2 in view of Shibata US 2004/0019787.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 6; claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 13 and 16; claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 27; claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 32 and 35; claim 41 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 46; claim 52 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 53 and 56. Applicants respectfully assert the amended claims are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the respective claims depending upon the amended independent claims are also now in condition for allowance.

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### CONCLUSION

In light of these remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 13, 2009

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